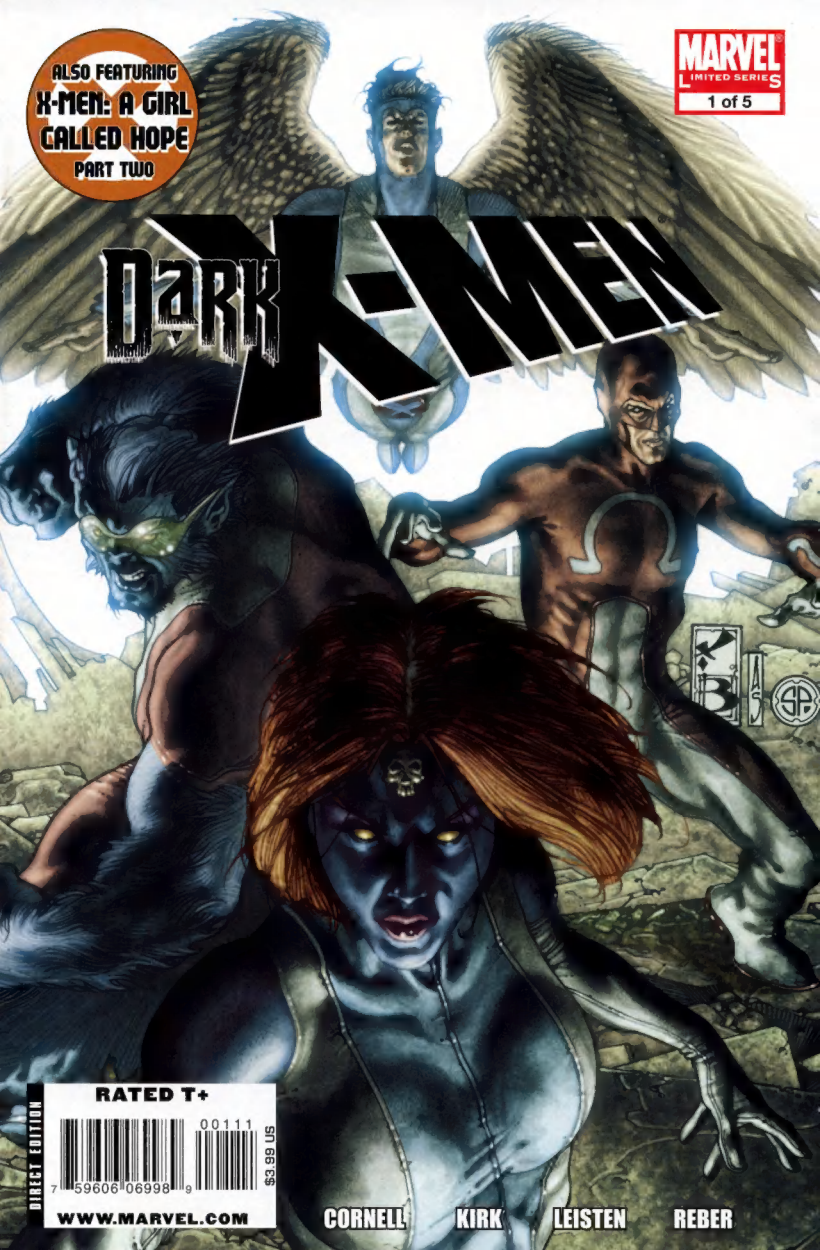
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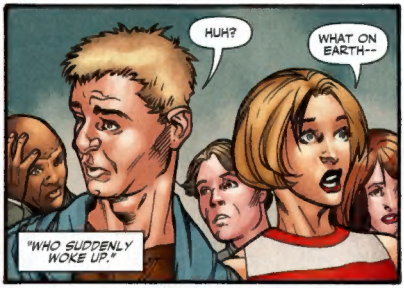
I'M AN X-MAN.
I'M AN X-MAN.
I'M AN X-MAN.
I'M AN X-MAN.
I'M AN X-MAN.
I'M AN X-MAN.
I'M AN X-MAN.
I'M AN X-MAN.
I'M AN X-MAN.
I'M AN X-MAN.
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP WALKING! PLEASE--!

I'M AN X-MAN!
I'M AN X-MAN!
I'M AN X-MAN!
I'M AN X-MAN!
I'M AN X-MAN!
PLEASE, IF YOU DON'T STOP YOU'LL DIE!
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE GOBLIN
Part One

I'M AN--
I'M AN--
"THEY WERE LIKE SLEEPWALKERS..."


HUH?
WHAT ON EARTH--
"WHO SUDDENLY WOKE UP."

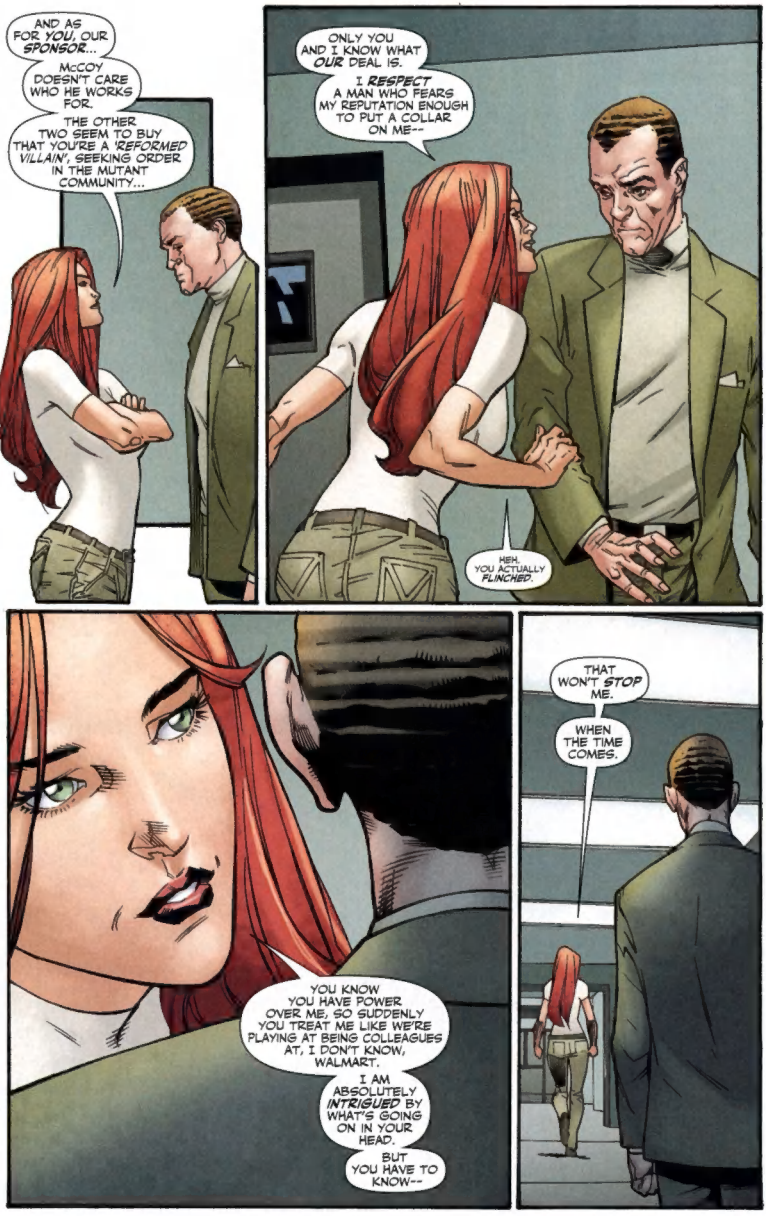
OH, THANK GOD.
54
05

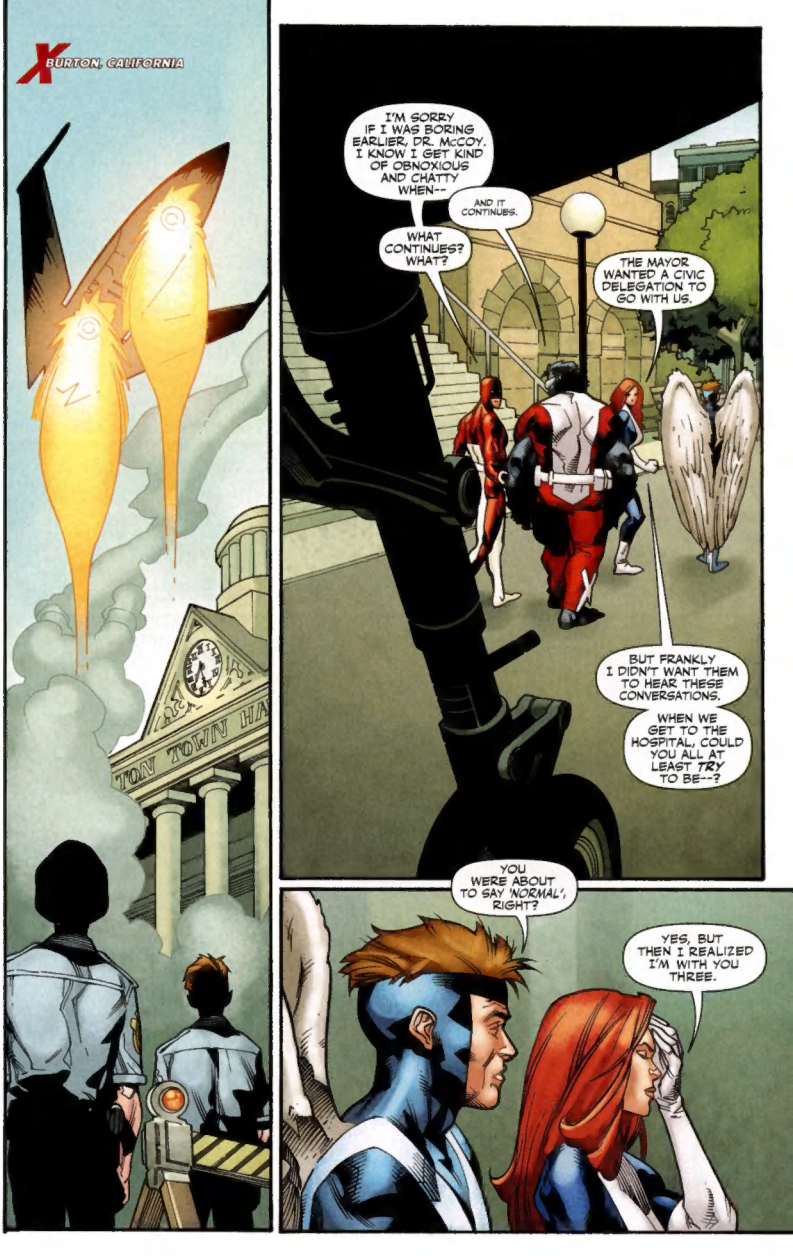
X-MEN HQ
NEW YORK CITY
THOSE INVOLVED HAVE NO MEMORY OF WHAT THEY DID, OR WHY THEY CLAIMED TO BE 'X-MEN'--
--HAVING BEEN REPEATING A NAME I SHOULD OWN.
THIS IS THE THIRD SUCH INCIDENT IN TWO WEEKS--
X-MAN 'FEVER'
17
NORMAN OSBORN
THE BANALITY OF EVIL.
GLASS ONION.
--BUT THE FIRST THAT'S MADE THE NEWS.
I WANT YOU, MY X-MEN--
TO CHECK IT OUT.
WELL, IF YOU THINK... I MEAN...
MIMIC
COPIES MUTANT POWERS.
NOWHERE MAN.
NO, I'M AN X-MAN!
LIKE WITH, YOU KNOW, SPARTACUS?
OKAY, SORRY, IN THAT MOVIE--
OMEGA
SUCKS MUTANT POWERS.
HELTER SKELTER.
MYSTIQUE
SHAPESHIFTER.
ELEANOR RIGBY.
DARK BEAST
HE'S A MONSTER.
HELP!
WE GET IT, OMEGA.
HE'D BE SO MUCH BETTER WITHOUT A MOUTH.
AN HOUR'S SURGERY. AND THEN JUST MMMPH MMMPH MMMPH.
ALTHOUGH HE'D PROBABLY MAKE THAT ANNOYING TOO...
WHAT I DO NOT GET...

...IS WHY YOU WISH TO USE ME "IN THE FIELD" RATHER THAN AS A BIOLOGIST?
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN PRETENDING TO BE A HERO OR A VILLAIN.
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO FIGHT SUPER-POWERED BATTLES, DR. McCOY--
IN FACT, SURVEYS SHOW THAT'S WHAT THE PUBLIC HATES MOST.
NO, THIS WILL BE A SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF A PHENOMENON--
THAT IF REPEATED, COULD DAMAGE OUR BRAND.
A GOODWILL VISIT TO THE QUIET LITTLE TOWN OF BURTON, CALIFORNIA.
YOU SHAKE SOME HANDS, INDICATE WE'RE ON IT...
LEAVE BEHIND A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHO FEELS THAT THOSE NICE YOUNG MUTANT FELLOWS ARE OBVIOUSLY CAPABLE OF POLICING THEMSELVES.
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THOSE THREE AS AN OPS TEAM.
RIGHT NOW, IF WE'RE MAKING A STAND ABOUT MUTANTS HANDLING MUTANT PROBLEMS, THEY'RE ALL WE'VE GOT.
I'D BE INTERESTED TO HEAR--
OH.
IS THAT GOING TO BE YOUR SAPIENS SAPIENS FORM NOW?
YES.
NOBODY CAN PROVE JEAN GREY IS DEAD.
AND THIS WOULD REALLY ANNOY...
SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO'VE MADE ME SUFFER FOR THEIR CAUSE.
YOU ACTUALLY DO 'EVIL' SOMETIMES, DON'T YOU?
LIKE SOME SORT OF... VENGEFUL...MOTHER... GODDESS...BUT, WHATEVER--
I WAS GOING TO ASK WHAT YOU MADE OF YOUR TEAM-MATES.

"McCOY IS THE MOST STABLE ONE, IN PURELY FUNCTIONAL TERMS. HE'S ENTIRELY SANE.
"WHICH IS SCARY IN ITSELF.
"BUT HE GETS BORED. I'M AFRAID HE MIGHT DO SOMETHING EXTREME..."
HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU TO BRING ME TEA, BLEAKER.
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS.
CURRENTLY.
FLICK
"JUST TO KEEP HIMSELF ENTERTAINED.
"POINTER...WELL..."
I GUESS I'M PAST THE GUILT. I SEE MYSELF AS WORKING FOR MY KARMA NOW.
MAKING UP FOR IT ALL. THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO BE CALLED 'WEAPON' ANYTHING. ONLY--
ENGAGE OMEGA MACHINE.
I HAVE TO ABSORB POWER FROM OTHER MUTANTS...
BUT THE MORE I TAKE, THE MORE...THE MORE...RANDOM I...I...
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY! I CAN'T HELP WHAT I'M DOING OR SAYING! I'M GOING TO START...
I LOVE YOU BABY! AND IF IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT...!
"POINTER VARIES."

"RANKIN IS A DEPRESSIVE. I REALLY DO FEEL FOR HIM.
"BUT THOUGH DR. SOFEN SAYS HE'S READY...
"I WORRY."
IT'S LIKE...
LIKE I KNOW THERE'S SOME GREAT... DOOM.
WAITING FOR ME.
IT'S NOT GRAND AND OPERATIC.
IT'S TAWDRY AND CRUEL AND... JUST THE END.
FOR ME AS A MORAL PERSON.
AND SOMETIMES I WANT TO FIGHT IT. SO MUCH.
I HAVE A GLIMPSE OF HOW PEOPLE FREE OF DEPRESSION MUST FEEL, LOOKING AHEAD TO SOMETHING. I TRY TO BE THIS GOOD PERSON...
AND SOMETIMES--
I DON'T SEE THE POINT OF MOVING FROM MY CHAIR.
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
HMM? OH, OF COURSE.
I'M GOING TO WRITE YOU A NEW PRESCRIPTION...
"I WORRY THAT SHE DOESN'T PARTICULARLY CARE."


AND AS FOR YOU, OUR SPONSOR...
McCOY DOESN'T CARE WHO HE WORKS FOR.
THE OTHER TWO SEEM TO BUY THAT YOU'RE A 'REFORMED VILLAIN', SEEKING ORDER IN THE MUTANT COMMUNITY...
ONLY YOU AND I KNOW WHAT OUR DEAL IS.
I RESPECT A MAN WHO FEARS MY REPUTATION ENOUGH TO PUT A COLLAR ON ME--
HEH. YOU ACTUALLY FLINCHED.
YOU KNOW YOU HAVE POWER OVER ME, SO SUDDENLY YOU TREAT ME LIKE WE'RE PLAYING AT BEING COLLEAGUES AT, I DON'T KNOW, WALMART.
I AM ABSOLUTELY INTRIGUED BY WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD.
BUT YOU HAVE TO KNOW--
THAT WON'T STOP ME.
WHEN THE TIME COMES.


BURTON, CALIFORNIA
I'M SORRY IF I WAS BORING EARLIER, DR. McCOY. I KNOW I GET KIND OF OBNOXIOUS AND CHATTY WHEN--
AND IT CONTINUES.
WHAT CONTINUES? WHAT?
THE MAYOR WANTED A CIVIC DELEGATION TO GO WITH US.
BUT FRANKLY I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO HEAR THESE CONVERSATIONS.
WHEN WE GET TO THE HOSPITAL, COULD YOU ALL AT LEAST TRY TO BE--?
YOU WERE ABOUT TO SAY 'NORMAL', RIGHT?
YES, BUT THEN I REALIZED I'M WITH YOU THREE.

HOW ARE WE DOING TODAY, MR. FENNER?
I'M FINE. I KEEP SAYING, I COULD REALLY GO HOME, JUST A FEW CUTS AND--
WHAT'S WITH THE COSTUMES? ARE YOU AVENGERS?
TIME FOR YOUR MEDICATION.
THIS WILL MAKE HIM ANSWER TRUTHFULLY.
WE HAD NO REASON TO THINK HE WOULDN'T.
OR THAT HE WOULD.
CAN WE GET ON? THOSE MICE I HAVE WAITING AT HOME WON'T DISSECT THEMSELVES.
AS OF YET.
HE MAY HAVE CALLED HIMSELF AN X-MAN, BUT HE'S NOT A MUTANT.
I'M NOT GETTING ANYTHING EITHER.
THAT'S JUST CONFIRMATION--
ENOUGH, YOU TWO.
JACK, WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE WORDS 'X-MAN'?
I... I REMEMBER...
BUT THERE'S LOTS OF OTHER USEFUL STUFF I DO FOR THIS TEAM...

I REMEMBER...
YOU'RE THE X-MEN.
YOU'RE THE X-MEN!
YOU'RE HENRY McCOY!
IT APPEARS MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME.
BRR... GUYS?
WHAT--? WHAT IS THIS...?
IT'S LIKE HE'S SUDDENLY BECOME A MUTANT.
I'M COPYING A POWER OFF HIM.
I THINK... I THINK I CAN--
IT'S HUGE! IT'S SO, SO--
I CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE.
I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO--
--BIG! I CAN'T STOP MYSELF--! I'M GOING TO--

EXPLOOOOODE!!!
SORRY!

THAT'S AN ENORMOUS LEVEL OF POWER HE'S ABSORBING. WHERE IS THAT COMING FROM?!
SO MUCH FOR THE P.R. MISSION.
CAL, GET AFTER HIM--!
AH. AH!
CAL?
I CAN SEE...
MY OWN FUTURE.
EVERYTHING I FEARED--
EVERYTHING I DESERVE--!
IT'S ALL GOING TO COME TRUE!
IT'S ALL...
VERA..

I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD HAVE THIS.
ANOTHER LIFE TO CARE ABOUT INSTEAD OF MINE. TO GIVE EVERYTHING TO.
WHAT'S HAPPENING...?
CAL?
YARGGGHHH!!!

CAL! FOCUS!
WE NEED YOU TO GET UP THERE, MIMIC WHATEVER POWER THIS IS, AND BRING OMEGA BACK HERE--
ERM, I THINK SWIFTLY WOULD BE GOOD...
"I DON'T THINK OMEGA IS QUITE...ON MESSAGE."
HELLO, GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME!
I'VE GONE ON HOLIDAY BY MISTAKE!
SORRY!
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS--
MY MIND IS GOING, TIME IS FLEETING, NORMAL SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED--!

"MAYBE NEVER!"
INVENTORY OF ITEMS DESTROYED BY OMEGA:
#1: PUBLIC LIBRARY.
SORRY!
CAL--!
WHY BOTHER? NO MATTER WHAT I DO--
I KNOW WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME.
LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE, SHALL WE?

DIFFERENT BREW, THIS ONE.
UPPERS, TEETH-CHATTERERS, POWER ENHANCERS, OUT OF HIS MIND YODELLING GUNG-HO CERTAINTY...
AND A PINCH OF GINSENG.
YARGGGHHH!
THE NFL'S LOSS IS HIS GAIN.
OR MAYBE I SHOULD APPROACH THEM AGAIN?
OUR PROBLEM WAS HAVING ONE PSYCHO IN THE FIELD. NOW WE HAVE TWO!
NOW, DO TRY TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE--

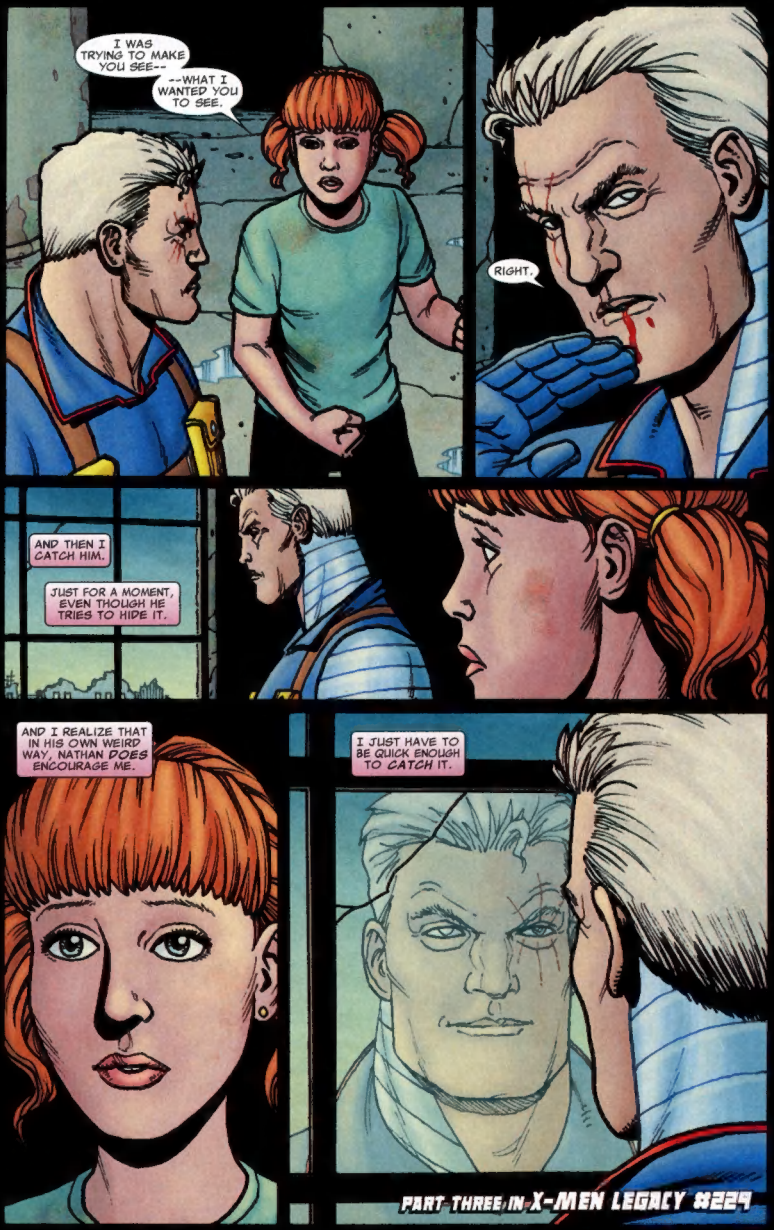
TAKE THAT, JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK!
I NEVER PARTICULARLY LIKED YOU, ANNE OF GREEN GABLES!
IF THAT IS YOUR REAL NAME!
I'M REALLY SORRY. THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING.
YARGGHH!
SPLAMMM
THANK YOU!
INVENTORY OF ITEMS DESTROYED BY OMEGA:
#2: STATUE OF BELOVED FORMER MAYOR AND HIS DOG.
SORRY!

IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIM.
HE'S RADIATING POWER TO THOSE TWO.
ENERGY POWERS AND PRECOGNITION.
BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM IN CONTROL. IT'S LIKE SOMETHING IS USING HIM AS A CHANNEL.
OH WELL--
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO PUT AN END TO THIS...
McCOY, NO!
HE'LL JUST FALL ASLEEP.
WELL, AND THEN DIE, BUT GIVE ME CREDIT FOR AT LEAST TRYING TO SOFTEN THE BLOW.
NO! THAT'S AN ORDER!
THIS HAS BECOME THE OPPOSITE OF A GOOD WILL MISSION!
OSBORN HAS MADE A BOMB OUT OF ME, DO YOU GET IT?! NO AMOUNT OF HORRIFYING SHAPE-CHANGER YOGA CAN CHANGE THAT!
HE CAN MAKE ME EXPLODE!
ERM, MYSTIQUE--?

STAYING FOCUSED IS THE KEY.
DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE LULLED INTO SEEING WHAT YOUR OPPONENT WANTS YOU TO SEE.
SAME DAMN THING, DAY IN, DAY OUT. "HOPE, YOU'RE NOT DOING THIS RIGHT." "HOPE, BE MINDFUL OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS." "HOPE, YOU SCREWED UP AGAIN."
DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE MY OPPONENT.
HOPE... I...
LOOK, I GET IT! NEVER LET MY GUARD DOWN! NOW WILL YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?

NO. I WON'T. I CAN'T. BECAUSE THE MAN WHO IS HUNTING YOU WON'T. NOT UNTIL YOU'RE DEAD.
I KNOW THIS IS TEDIOUS, BUT IT'S NECESSARY. IT'S WHAT WILL KEEP YOU ALIVE. UNDERSTAND?
HE NEVER, EVER CUTS ME ANY SLACK.
NEVER GIVES ME A "GOOD JOB" OR "ATTAGIRL."
NOTHING.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A "YES."
DOESN'T HE KNOW THAT'S ALL I WANT?

HOPE... IT'S TIME WE GOT ROLLING, HOPE?
LOOK, I KNOW I'VE BEEN HARD ON YOU. MAYBE WE'RE GOING AT THIS THE WRONG WAY. MAYBE--
?
YEEEEE-AH!
KRNCH


I WAS TRYING TO MAKE YOU SEE--
--WHAT I WANTED YOU TO SEE.
RIGHT.
AND THEN I CATCH HIM.
JUST FOR A MOMENT, EVEN THOUGH HE TRIES TO HIDE IT.
AND I REALIZE THAT IN HIS OWN WEIRD WAY, NATHAN DOES ENCOURAGE ME.
I JUST HAVE TO BE QUICK ENOUGH TO CATCH IT.
PART THREE IN X-MEN LEGACY #224